

Attorney Docket No. 13054-218A

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the first Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S. C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Macnaughtan et al., "NMR Difference Probe," *Journal of Magnetic Resonance*, 156, 97-103 (2002). The Examiner also indicated that Figure 1 should be marked as prior art.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the cover page, copyright page and table of contents for the journal issue in question indicating a publication date of May 2002. The present application has an effective filing date of April 15, 2003. Applicants submit that, to the extent that the cited Macnaughtan et al. article describes the claimed subject matter, it describes their invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections relying on the Macnaughtan et al. article, and withdraw the objection to Figure 1.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if it would help advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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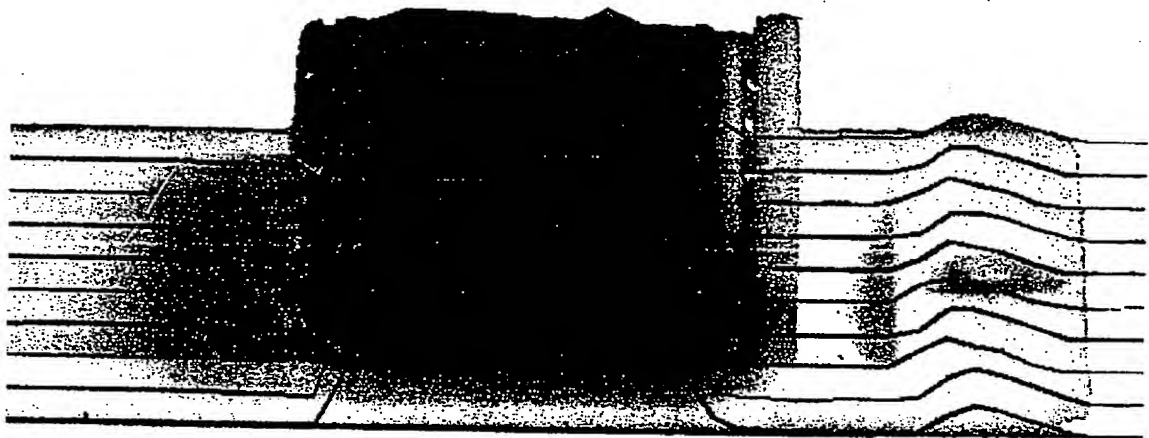
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Cover Art. Proton density drying profiles over the course of one day of a low water content soil sample generated with a half-k-space SPRITE imaging method as described in the article by Mastikhin *et al.* on pp. 122-130 of this issue.

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